(c) if not, the alternative steps taken to over come the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is a decontrolled fertilizer and its availability is decided by market forces of demand and supply. Due to reduced production as well as imports by the traditional fertilizer companies producing/importing DAP, State Governments have been requested to get balance supply of DAP from Indian Potash Limited/MMTC Limited on payment of Maximum Retail Price less dealers margin and to arrange for its distribution within the State through their marketing federations. Amount so advanced by the State Government will be recouped through realisation of its sale. The State Trading Agencies have already finalised import of the full requirement of DAP as estimated by various State Governments for both the current Kharif as well as the ensuing Rabi season.

Closure of units in FACT

40. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the various plants of FACT is closed down due to the enhancement of price of raw—material in international market; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to start the production in FACT, Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Recently, it was reported by the management of FACT, that the Caprolactam-Ammoniam Sulphate plant has been temporarily closed down due to abnormal increase in the price of raw materials in the international market. However, the complex fertilizer (NPK) plant of FACT is still operational.

(b) A special financial dispensation proposal for FACT is under active consideration of the Government.

Village Grain Bank Scheme in Maharashtra

41. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has submitted a proposal regarding revised Village Grain Bank Scheme, dated 24th March, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Chief Minister also reminded in a communication dated 18th September, 2006 with the Agriculture Minister about the scheme;

(c) whether Government have raised any queries regarding this issue and if so, when the information was received from the State Government; and

(d) if so, what is the latest decision and by what time the final decision in this regard is going to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.